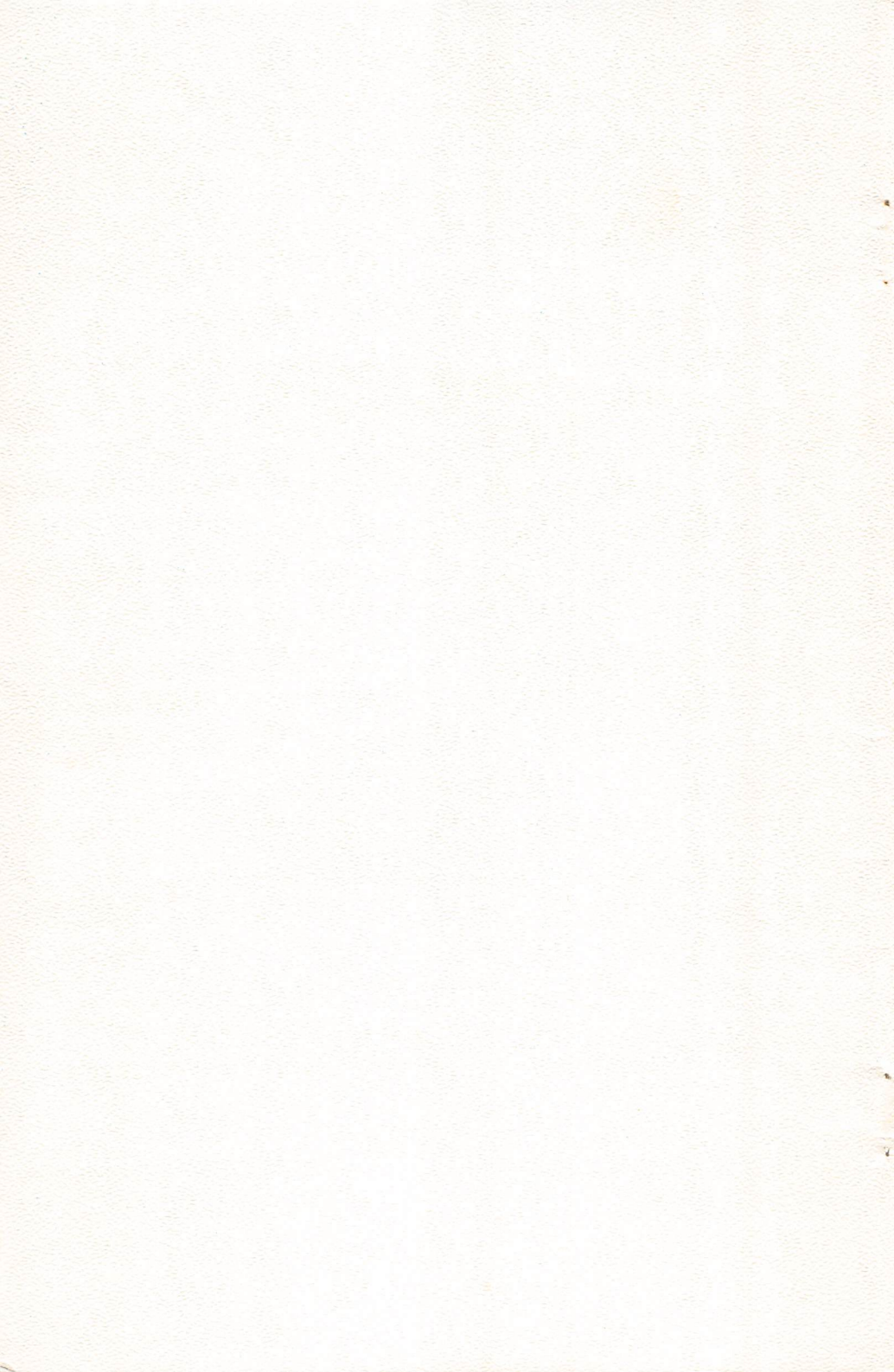




PALM BEACH

COUNTY

- structure
- functions
- services



Foreword

This booklet has been prepared as a service to voters by the League of Women Voters of the West Palm Beach Area and the League of Women Voters of South Palm Beach County. It describes briefly the structure of our County and its many functions and services.

The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan organization dedicated to the informed and active participation of citizens in government, and functions on national, state and local levels.

The League often takes a position on issues, but never supports political parties or candidates.

We hope that this survey will give you information and answer questions you might have about Palm Beach County, and thus enable you to participate more actively in our County government.

We wish to thank the County officials for their courteous and invaluable service in helping us compile "Palm Beach County —structure, functions, services."

League of Women Voters of the West Palm Beach Area
League of Women Voters of South Palm Beach County

Florida

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THIS IS THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS	Inside Back Cover

The County

The County is a political subdivision of the State, created by the State Legislature for administrative purposes. Some of the functions of the County are: execution of the policy of public education, construction and maintenance of local public roads and bridges, collection of taxes, law enforcement, administration of justice, elections, and administration of school and welfare services.

The County may be given authority to perform proprietary functions such as the operation of water control districts, sewer and water system, airports and hospitals.

The County does not have a charter as does a city and does not pass ordinances except where specifically given authority by statutes.

According to the 1969 Constitution, however, a county government may be established by charter, which shall be adopted, amended, or repealed only upon vote of the electors of the county in a special election called for that purpose.

The State Legislature has the power to change county lines and to establish new counties but the Constitution prohibits the Legislature from changing county seats except in case of malfeasance or misfeasance.

County citizens elect their own County officers. The Governor has power of recall and to fill vacancies.

CHAPTER I

Generally Speaking

History

In 1822 the two counties forming the State of Florida were divided into four counties: St. Johns, Escambia, Jackson and Duval. Subsequent divisions followed and the area known as Palm Beach County was first part of St. Johns, then Monroe, Mosquito, St. Lucie and Brevard Counties, in that order. Finally in 1874 the Palm Beach County area became part of Dade County with the county seat located at Juno. In 1909 Palm Beach County was established as the forty-seventh county of Florida, and West Palm Beach was named as the county seat.

Boundaries

The present boundaries were set in 1963 and enclose 2214 square miles of land and water. The neighboring counties are Martin County to the north, Broward to the south and Hendry to the west. In area, Palm Beach County is the largest of Florida's 67 counties.

Water Resources

The 61.8 inch average yearly rainfall provides an abundant water supply. Lake Okeechobee in the western part of the county is the third largest lake completely within the United States and is an important segment of the cross-state waterway. Lake Worth, a saltwater lake, is part of the federal-state maintained Intracoastal Waterway. In addition to numerous small lakes, there is an arterial canal system used for irrigation and drainage of farm lands.

Agriculture

The largest sugar and celery crops in the state are produced in the Everglades area. The county's extensive agriculture also includes many flower and vegetable farms as well as approximately 80,000 head of beef cattle and 13,000 dairy cows. At present there are approximately 23,000 acres in citrus. Harvesting is limited but will be more significant as this crop matures.

Population

According to the 1960 census, Palm Beach County is the seventh most populous county in the state, with a population of 228,106, representing a 98.9 percent increase over the

1950 figure. About 85 percent of the people live in urban areas. In 1968 the population was estimated to be 350,000.

Employment

From 1958 the civilian labor force increased from 82,300 to 131,500. The major categories of employment are: agriculture; tourism; manufacturing; transportation; communication; public utilities; construction; trade, wholesale and retail; finance, insurance and real estate. Employment in trade and manufacturing increased 41.5 percent and 69.1 percent respectively from 1958 through 1968. About 14 percent of the county's total labor force is currently engaged in agriculture. During the winter agriculture season 15,700 migrants (including foreign workers) come to Palm Beach County.

Municipalities

There are 38 incorporated cities and towns in the county. Services provided by the local governmental units and special districts: police protection (35 departments); fire protection (34 fire departments paid and/or voluntary); libraries, many of which are part of the county library system; parks and recreational facilities.

Outlook

Palm Beach County is growing in population and changing in structure, function and services at such a rapid pace it is difficult to present current, accurate information. It was predicted at the Conference on Urbanization held in Atlanta in 1967 that Palm Beach County, with a 99 percent increase in population in the next 10 years, will be the fastest growing county in the United States. If this is true, there will be ever increasing demands upon county government.

CHAPTER II

Adminstration

County Officers

The Florida Constitution adopted in 1968 provides that counties not operating under a charter shall have the following officials, elected for four years each: five commissioners, a sheriff, a tax collector, a tax assessor, a supervisor of elections and a clerk of the circuit court.

The governing body shall be the board of county commissioners composed of five members serving staggered terms of four years. Each commissioner represents one of the five county districts, but is elected by the county at large. Districts are created as equally as possible on the basis of population and area. In order to qualify for office, a commissioner must be over 21 years of age, a United States citizen, have been a resident of the State of Florida for one year and of Palm Beach County for six months and have never been convicted of a crime or felony.

Board of County Commissioners

The County Commission meets every Tuesday. Special sessions may be called by the chairman, who is selected by the commission itself, and who also presides at each meeting. Meetings are open to the public.

Meetings

The State Constitution gives the Board of County Commissioners the power to levy taxes, make appropriations and authorize bonds, subject to certain statutory restrictions. The Commission also has the power to appoint all personnel under its supervision and appoint boards to perform specific functions.

Powers and Duties

The Clerk to the Board of County Commissioners, who also serves as Clerk of the Circuit Court (see Chapter VII) is a constitutional officer and is elected for a four year term. He serves as clerk and accountant for the County Commission, is auditor and recorder of the county and appoints the Comptroller, who is responsible for accounting procedures.

Clerk to the Board of County Commissioners

The County Commission appoints a County Administrator, County Attorney, Community Aid Coordinator, directors and/or supervisors and personnel of the following departments.

Employees

AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT
AIRPORTS DEPARTMENT
CIVIL DEFENSE
COUNTY HOME
COUNTY STOCKADE
DATA PROCESSING DEPARTMENT
ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT
HEALTH DEPARTMENT

HIGHWAY SAFETY DEPARTMENT
OFFICE SERVICES
PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT
PLANNING, ZONING & BUILDING DEPARTMENT
PURCHASING DEPARTMENT
VETERANS SERVICE
WELFARE DEPARTMENT
WORKMENS COMPENSATION

Personnel Policy

All department heads under the jurisdiction of the County Commission are required to use services of the personnel department in the recruitment of staff. (This does not include fee officers.) County employees participate in the State and County Officers and Employees Retirement System and in Social Security. Health Department employees are considered State employees under the State Personnel System.

County Administrator

The Commissioners appoint an administrator who is the chief administrative officer of the County and has direct control and supervision of all county personnel who are subject to control of the Commissioners and also serves as the county's budget officer.

Community Aid Coordinator

The Community Aid Coordinator is responsible for keeping the County Commission advised of Federal Aid programs and availability of funds.

Boards

The County Commission appoints the unsalaried members of the boards such as: Area Planning Board, Licensing Construction Board, Development Board, Library Advisory Board and others.

Water and Pollution Control

This countywide operating district was created in 1967 by the Florida Legislature to enable Palm Beach County to provide a water and sewer system.

CHAPTER III

Public Works And Services

County Engineering Department

This department consists of Roads and Bridges, Surveys, Engineering Design, Right of Ways, Parks, Mosquito Control and Building Service Departments. It is under the direction of the County Engineer (a registered professional as required by State law) who is responsible to the County Administrator. The County Engineer administers county roads, bridges and building contracts; monitors subdivision development, and coordinates technical matters with the State Road Department and other governmental agencies. He also supervises the county motor pool.

The Planning, Zoning and Building Department under the County Administrator, regulates the county zoning, building, plumbing and electrical codes, and provides administrative support for the County Zoning Commission, Board of Adjustment, Contractors Examining Board and Licensing Construction Board, all of which are appointive boards.

Planning, Zoning and Building Department

The Board of County Commissioners, as governing body, operates three airports within Palm Beach County: Palm Beach International Airport, Palm Beach County Park Airport at Lantana, and Palm Beach County Glades Airport at Pahokee. These airports come under the immediate supervision of the Department of Airports administered by a director (responsible to the County Administrator)

Airport

The Purchasing Department purchases all equipment, supplies and materials required by the County Commission's departments and does much of the purchasing for other county offices and agencies, all in accordance with the bidding procedures required by law. Any purchase in an amount of \$2,000 or more necessitates bids, advertising, specifications and acceptance of the lowest responsible bidder.

Purchasing Department

Four county employees under the County Commission file claims with the Veterans Administration on behalf of veterans and their families.

Veterans Service

Indigent residents may be admitted to the county owned and operated home. This facility is classified as a nursing home as there are no surgical facilities on the premises. The superintendent is responsible to the County Administrator.

County Home

The Civil Defense Department is under the supervision of a director appointed by the County Commission. The staff are employees of the county under the State Personnel System and are paid partially with Federal funds. It establishes training and survival courses of all types, and is the emergency communication and planning agency for the county. The Director is responsible to the County Administrator.

Civil Defense Department

Agriculture Extension Services

The Agriculture Extension Programs are supervised by the University of Florida Agricultural Center Service. Offices are located at the Mounts Agricultural Center in West Palm Beach with a branch in the Everglades area. The agricultural agents assist with problems of expanding urban development, farm management and 4-H youth activities. Home Demonstration agents are concerned with homemaking skills, family living and the 4-H program

CHAPTER IV

Public Health

Director of Public Health

The Director of the Health Department is a qualified physician, appointed by the County Commission, with the approval of the State Board of Health, and is responsible to the County Administrator. He administers state health laws, is responsible for the control and prevention of diseases, registration of births and deaths, and cooperates with private and governmental agencies on special projects. The personnel of the Health Department are employed within the regulations of the State Personnel System.

Location of Offices

The main office is located at 826 Evernia Street, West Palm Beach. The Health Department has branch offices in Belle Glade, Pahokee, Riviera Beach, Hillville, Delray Beach and West Palm Beach.

County Health Department

The basic operating expenses are provided from the county's general revenue funds. The School Board pays for the school nursing services. State and federal funds are contributed for specific programs, and private agencies pay for certain services. Fees are collected for birth, death, and food-handler certificates.

Sanitation

The Engineering and Sanitation Division and Veterinary Division are responsible for enforcing the sanitation laws of the state and the county. Duties include: air control; dairy inspections; food sanitation; supervision of public water supplies; inspection of sewage disposal facilities; enforcement of health regulations for schools, nursing homes, public swimming pools, trailer parks and migrant camps.

The Bureau of Vital Statistics makes photostatic copies of all birth and death certificates and files the originals with the state office in Jacksonville. Hospitals, funeral directors and attending physicians must file certificates. The bureau also records certain diseases and other data for research purposes.

Bureau of Vital Statistics

The staff of registered professional nurses, trained in public health nursing, conducts a generalized nursing program. This program includes health education; maternal and child health; communicable disease control; mental health; school health and chronic disease control.

Public Health Nursing

The following clinical services, primarily for indigents, are provided by the county: immunization, detection and treatment of tuberculosis and venereal disease; food handlers instruction; prenatal and well-baby care; dental and medical out-patient care. There are also clinics operated with the aid of other agencies and/or private groups for the detection and treatment of tumors, heart disease, blindness, diabetes, diseases of old age and mental health.

Clinics

The County Physician and staff nurses, employed by the County Commission, serve at the medical clinics. The County Physician also cares for patients at the County Home.

County Physician

CHAPTER V

Welfare Department

The Director of the Welfare Department is appointed by the County Commission, and is responsible to the County Administrator. The director administers policies and procedures for social and administrative phases of the agency and is responsible for preparing a proposed budget, subject to approval and acceptance by the County Commission. The director also cooperates with private and governmental agencies on special projects. The personnel of the Welfare Department are employed within regulations of the county personnel system.

Director of County Welfare

Location of Offices

The main office is located at 826 Evernia Street, West Palm Beach 33401. The telephone number is 832-2453. Its branch offices are listed in the directory pages.

County Welfare Department

The County Welfare Department provides temporary and emergency aid for indigent residents. It is responsible for determining, according to welfare standards, the eligibility of the indigent for public and welfare services, as well as many private services.

Source of Funds

The Welfare Department is funded by ad valorem taxes – taxes on real and personal property.

Referrals

Services provided include the following: Medical. Hospital admissions and payments; in-patient physicians' services fees; nursing home admissions and supplementations; admissions and payments toward adult foster, boarding and homes for the aged; County Home admissions. Mental health. Initiation of alleged mental incompetency and placement in private psychiatric facilities; determination of eligibility for dispensing of medications; screening for clinics. General medical. Heart, tumor, diabetic, prenatal, dental, emergency room and out-patient ambulance and tuberculosis payments. General assistance. Grocery orders, administration of Federal Foods Programs. Referrals and counseling; clothing, Legal Aid, budgets, consumer buying, glasses, education and training programs. Serves as Travelers' Aid, provides for indigent burials. (Other welfare services are available through the Florida State Department of Public Welfare.)

CHAPTER VI

Tax Levies

County Assessor

The County Assessor is a constitutional officer elected for a term of four years. It is his duty to determine the valuations of all real estate and other property for the purposes of taxation. The expenses of his office are paid by fees provided for in the Florida statutes, which are based on a percentage of assessments.

Assessments

Assessments are made on the basis of square footage, age, location, physical state, quality, market value, etc. Records are open to the public. Appraisals for assessments are totaled and submitted to the County Commission on the first Monday in July. The County Commission sits as a Board of Equalization beginning in July. Assessments at present are made on an estimated 100 percent of market value. Applications for the \$5000 Homestead Exemption prescribed in the State Constitution must be filed with the Assessor on or before April 1 of each year.

Tangible personal property assessments and intangible personal property assessments are based on returns to the County Assessor filed by April 1. Tangible property is defined as business fixtures, merchandise, equipment and machinery, livestock, household goods and personal effects. Household goods and personal effects of Florida legal residents actually used in the home are exempt. Intangible property includes cash, deposits of money, stocks, bonds (except those exempt), mortgages, accounts receivable, annuities, etc. The intangible tax is a state tax collected for and remitted to the Comptroller of the State of Florida.

The Tax Collector is a constitutional officer and is elected for a four-year term. He is responsible for the collection of all taxes: the advertising and selling of certificates of delinquent taxes; automobile, boat and airplane registrations; occupational licenses; retail store licenses; and state beverage licenses. Taxes are due and payable on the first day of November and are considered delinquent after April 1 of the year following the year in which they were assessed.

Tax Collector

There are twelve general taxing areas in the county and eighteen special districts. All areas contribute equally to the county fund, School Board and the Central and South Florida Flood Control District. The 18 special tax districts include three hospital districts, a library district, the Jupiter and South Lake Worth Inlet Districts, the Port of Palm Beach, and 11 fire districts.

Taxing Areas

There are 15 special drainage districts. The South Lake Worth Inlet is also known as the Boynton Inlet. The Pahokee Hospital District serves Pahokee and the northwest part of the county. The Belle Glade Hospital District serves the

southwest section of the county and the municipalities of South Bay and Belle Glade. Boynton Beach, Delray Beach, Boca Raton and neighboring municipalities are in the Bethesda Hospital District.

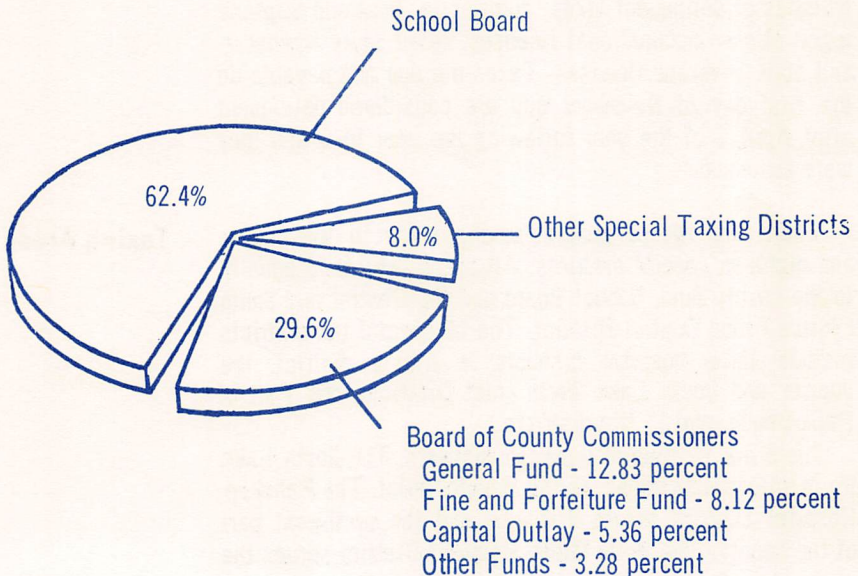
Board of County Commission Budget Making

Each spring various departments under the control of the County Commissioners estimate expenditures for the following fiscal year. These budget requests are submitted to the County Administrator who is the Budget Officer. These figures are assembled into the anticipated county budget by staff assigned to the Budget Officer, for his recommendations to the County Commission. The budget (after public hearings) is correlated with the assessed valuations submitted by the Assessor and the tax millage is then set. The School Board, Central and South Florida Flood Control District and the special tax districts also submit their required millage to the County Commissioners.

Taxes

The following chart shows total taxes levied for fiscal year ending September 1969 and distribution by percentage.

Chart – Taxes Levied for County Operations
October 1, 1968 – September 30, 1969
\$44,167,823



The Port of Palm Beach is administered by an independent three-member Board of Commissioners elected to office for terms of four years. The port manager, superintendent and comptroller are appointed by the Port Commissioners. Operation and maintenance costs of 173 acres, seven miles of railroad track, four warehouses, two slips, seven wharves and fire equipment are covered by port revenue and the port district tax. The Federal Government maintains the jetties and the deep channel. The Bureau of Customs, Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization maintain offices at the Port of Palm Beach. The Corps of Engineers is charged with the responsibility of maintaining the ship channel and turning basin at its proper depth. The Port of Palm Beach District also owns landing facilities located on Lake Okeechobee near Belle Glade and Pahokee.

Port of Palm Beach

CHAPTER VII

Administration Of Justice

The Sheriff, the chief law enforcement officer in the county, is elected for a four-year term. His powers and duties include: apprehension and arrest of violators of criminal laws; execution of all processes of the courts and County Commission; preservation of peace and suppression of riots and unlawful assemblies; administration of the county jail. The Governor of the State exercises general supervision over the Sheriff to insure enforcement of State laws and has the power to suspend the Sheriff or any other elected official subject to the approval of the State Senate.

Sheriff - Powers and Duties

The Sheriff's budget is submitted to the County Commission. Funds are provided from the fine and forfeiture fund which includes ad valorem taxes and fees (fixed by State law) collected by the Sheriff's office.

Budget

The Sheriff's Department employs approximately 300 persons and operates 90 motor vehicles (including private vehicles on a mileage basis) and several patrol boats. A crime laboratory is maintained at the county jail and the department has access to the facilities of the Florida Sheriff's Bureau in Tallahassee and those of the F.B.I.

Facilities

State Attorney

The State Attorney, the prosecutor for the Circuit Court, is an elected officer. He is elected by the 15th Judicial Circuit, (Palm Beach County), for a four-year term. All capital cases within the Circuit Court are prosecuted by the state Attorney and he may bring criminal charges upon indictment by the grand jury. He also advises the grand jury and examines witnesses when requested. Assistant State attorneys are appointed by the Governor.

County Solicitor

The County Solicitor is elected for a four-year term and serves as prosecutor for the Criminal Court of Record. He prosecutes all offenses which are under the jurisdiction of this court and also acts on indictments returned by the grand jury except capital crimes.

Public Defender

The Public Defender is elected by the electors of the 15th Judicial Circuit for a four-year term. He has the duty of representing indigent persons accused of having committed a non-capital felony.

COURTS**Judges**

Palm Beach County is served by several courts, as shown in the following table. The circuit judges are elected for six years and the other judges serve four-year terms.

The Circuit Court and the County Judge's Court are constitutionally established and the other courts are created by statute to serve special county needs. Incorporated areas have municipal courts, authorized by city charters, to deal with violations of city ordinances.

COURT	JURISDICTION		JUDGE
	Civil	Criminal	Number
CIRCUIT COURT	<i>Equity of \$1000 & up</i>	<i>Capital Offenses</i>	7
COUNTY COURT OF RECORD	<i>Probate and Incomp. Equity up to \$500</i>	<i>None</i>	2
CRIMINAL COURT OF RECORD	<i>None</i>	<i>All except capital offenses</i>	2
JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS	<i>Support of minor children and mothers (in certain cases)</i>	<i>Children under 17 years of age</i>	2
SMALL CLAIMS, MAGISTRATE'S	<i>Up to \$1000</i>	<i>Traffic cases and misdemeanors</i>	5
MUNICIPAL	<i>None</i>	<i>Violations of municipal ordinances</i>	<i>Determined by Charter</i>

The Clerk of the Circuit Court, who also serves as Clerk to the Board of County Commissioners, is elected for four years. He keeps all court records, collects filing fees and issues processes on judgements. He is also Clerk of the Criminal Court, and acts as Clerk of the County Court and the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court.

Clerk of the Circuit Court and Criminal Court of Record

A list of persons qualified to serve as jurors is compiled each year by a three-member Jury Commission appointed by the Governor. Any registered voter is qualified to act as a juror. After the list is certified by a circuit judge, the names are placed in the jury box from which both grand and petit juries are drawn. Persons over 65 years of age or physically disabled are exempt, also females with young children may be exempt, and those convicted of felonies or not of sound mind cannot serve as jurors. Jurors are paid \$5.00 per day and a modest mileage allowance.

Jury Duty

The County Grand Jury convenes twice a year and is subject to recall by special request of the State Attorney. It consists of eighteen members and twelve of them must agree before an indictment is returned. The Grand Jury is concerned with the examination of evidence and determines if there is sufficient cause for indictment.

Grand Jury

A petit jury must consist of twelve members in capital and condemnation cases. In all other civil and criminal cases, juries of six members are used.

Petit Jury

CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND AGENCIES

The Sheriff administers the county jail, where persons convicted of misdemeanors and felonies serve their terms and where adults awaiting trial are detained. The jail has a separate area for women but no separate facilities for youthful or first offenders, alcoholics or defectives.

County Jail

The Stockade is under the jurisdiction of the County Administrator. The Stockade houses approximately 60 male prisoners, some of whom work on county road projects; the others are waiting disposition through court action.

Work Stockade

Juvenile Detention Facilities

There are two separate facilities for juveniles in the county supervised by the Board of Visitors which is appointed by the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Courts with the approval of the County Commission. The Juvenile Detention Center houses boys pending disposition of their cases by the Juvenile Court. A county detention home (childrens home) is maintained for correction and rehabilitation of juvenile offenders. Girls awaiting court action are placed at the county home separate from the other occupants.

Counselors

A chief juvenile court counselor and 18 assistants selected through the State Personnel System aid the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court. Family investigations, counseling and pre-sentence reports are provided by the staff which also serves as probation officers.

CHAPTER VIII

Education

State Board of Education

The general control of public schools and regulation of parochial and private schools is vested in the State Board of Education, which is made up of the Governor and members of the State Cabinet including the Commissioner of Education. The Commissioner of Education directs the Department of Education which is responsible for school accreditation, teacher certification, instructional, vocational and other services.

County School Board

The Palm Beach County School Board is composed of five members, one from each of the five county districts, elected on a countywide basis for staggered terms. In addition to fulfilling the requirements of the State Minimum Foundation Program, the School Board determines the policies and standards for the public schools. The Board employs all school personnel, controls school properties, adopts the curriculum and provides instructional aids including textbooks.

Superintendent of Schools

The Superintendent of Schools is a salaried officer elected for four years. He is responsible for carrying out the policies of the School Board, suggests measures to

insure adequate educational and plant facilities and recommends the appointment of principals and members of the instructional and administrative staffs.

The Minimum Foundation Program, in existence since 1947, provides the major part of state funds. Total Minimum Foundation Program (MFP) support is arrived at by the State Legislature by calculating the cost of providing minimum educational opportunities considered reasonable and essential. The allocation to the individual county is measured by the average daily attendance, less the minimum financial effort required of that county. To receive the MFP support, the county must fulfill certain standards including: 180 school days a year; records and reports prescribed in MFP; employment regulations and salary schedules; required minimum financial effort. Minimum financial effort is based on the assessed valuation of nonexempt property.

Minimum Foundation Program

Palm Beach County (1968-69 budget) receives 44.7 percent of the cost of education from state funds. Since, however, many services provided in Palm Beach County are above the minimum requirements, these are financed by the county. Local taxation supplies 47.9 percent of the educational costs. Other funds which include federal funds, contribute 7.4 percent of the total costs. County funds are derived primarily from property taxes. Under constitutional provisions, millage of property up to 10 mills (\$10 per \$1,000 valuation) may be levied for the schools. One mill tax levy will realize approximately \$2,500,000 countywide under the current assessment schedule. Additional millage without limitation is permitted if approved by freeholders paying taxes.

Local Taxation

New construction is financed through the above millage, by the state through the Minimum Foundation Program, School Capital Outlay Amendment and Matched Building Fund Act. In addition, the sale of bonds may be approved in a freeholders' election. Any millage necessary to pay bonded indebtedness and interest resulting from such election may be above the 10 mill constitutional limit.

Construction Funds

Instructional salaries comprise 72.9 percent of the school budget. Administrative costs come to 3.1 percent and

Budget

maintenance and school plant operation, 8.1 percent. Reserves, transfers, auxiliary services, etc., make up the remainder of the budgeted expenses.

Teaching Staff

There are 2,899 teachers, including deans, guidance counselors, librarians and principals. Sixty-five administrative personnel serve the county school system. Teachers' salaries are based on college degrees earned and years of tenure. The salary schedule starts at \$6500 per annum. At present the teaching staff at Palm Beach Junior College numbers 180.

Enrollment

In September 1968, the number of pupils registered in grades kindergarten to twelve totaled about 68,000. The enrollment of the Junior College is approximately 5,000. A kindergarten system was initiated in 1968.

School Buildings

At present there are 92 elementary, junior and senior high schools. This number includes the North Technical Center, a vocational school. There is one junior college in the county.

Exceptional Children

The School Board maintains a program for exceptional children. The types of children served are the blind, deaf, the physically handicapped, the emotionally disturbed, the retarded, those having speech difficulties and those having reading disabilities. These services are provided through a special school, special rooms, and itinerant services including speech, reading and home teaching.

Instructional Television

Several schools are participating in an instructional television program which is in the process of being expanded to include the entire school system.

CHAPTER IX

Popular Control of Government

Political Parties

There were 155,364 registered voters in Palm Beach County as of the 1968 General Election. The Democratic party had 96,740 registrants; the Republicans, 51,798; other parties and independents, 4,818. Each major political party is entitled to an executive committee composed of one

man and one woman from each of the 114 precincts, and an additional man and woman from each precinct having an official registration of more than 1,000 voters in their own party.

Any citizen of the United States, 21 years of age or over, who has been a resident of Florida for one year, and Palm Beach County for six months, is eligible to register. Everyone registering is required to state under oath whether or not he is a freeholder (owner of real property) and this information is recorded in the registration.

Provision is made for persons to preregister, who will attain the age of 21 prior to next election, but after normal closing of registration books. Provision is also made for those who will fulfill residency requirements before the next election but after normal closing of registration books. The Supervisor may require satisfactory proof of a person's qualifications to register. Absentee registration is permitted for military personnel and their spouses if they are not stationed in Florida.

Who May Register

The office of the Supervisor of Elections is located in the County Office Building, 810 Datura Street, West Palm Beach. The registration books are open every weekday except for the 30-day period before and five days following election. Voters may also register at city halls in the County as follows: Atlantis, Boca Raton, Boynton Beach, Delray Beach, Greenacres, Juno, Jupiter, Lake Park, Lake Worth, Lantana, North Palm Beach, Palm Beach, Palm Beach Shores, Palm Beach Gardens, Palm Springs, Royal Palm Beach, South Bay, Tequesta and the Glades Office Building. Residents should check at their local city hall in case special registration is required for municipal or special district elections.

Where to Register

The Supervisor of Elections is a constitutional officer elected for a four-year term. He is in charge of registration books; keeps voters records current; and furnishes statistics for the Secretary of State, to other state and county officials and individuals. He furnishes certificates for proof of age for Social Security, welfare, Medicare and other governmental agencies. He is responsible for details of all

Supervisor of Elections

elections and instruction of election personnel. He takes care of absentee ballots for those physically disabled or who will be absent from the county on election day. He is responsible for election returns at close of the polls.

Canvassing Board

The Supervisor of Elections, the County Judge and the Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners make up the Canvassing Board, which convenes by noon on the day following any election.

Primaries

In order to vote in a primary a voter must register as a Democrat or Republican. Because the primary is the means by which the political parties nominate candidates, Democrats vote only for Democratic nominees, and Republicans for Republican nominees. Others may not vote in party primaries. The first primary election is held the first Tuesday after the first Monday in May in even numbered years. A candidate must receive a majority vote to win the party nomination. The second primary or "run-off" election follows three weeks later if no candidate receives a majority of votes cast by his party. The two highest candidates compete.

General Elections

The general election is held the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November. County, state and federal officials are elected and amendments to the State Constitution are on the ballot at this time.

Presidential Elections - Special Provisions

A person living in Florida less than 12 months, who was registered to vote in his former state, may apply to the Supervisor of Elections for a presidential ballot. The resident may vote by special ballot at 810 Datura Street upon receipt of proof of registration from the former state, which the Supervisor of Elections will request.

Bond and Referendum Elections

Counties, school districts, municipalities, special districts and local governmental bodies with taxing powers may issue bonds subject to the approval of their freeholders who pay taxes. Such bonds are issued for capital projects and are payable from ad valorem taxes. Referendum elections are those held to permit electors to accept or reject proposed issues.

CHAPTER X

How County Government Could Be Changed

The present structure of Palm Beach County Government with a governing body of five commissioners and the elected officials as enumerated in Chapter II is that provided for counties in general in the Florida Constitution.

The revised 1969 Florida Constitution provides for two types of government for counties: non-charter and charter.

Under the non-charter government, the counties would have only those powers of self-government the legislature would allow by general or special law. A Board of County Commissioners could enact only those ordinances which do not conflict with general or special law.

Under the charter form of government, counties would have all powers of local self-government not conflicting with general law. The charter may provide for a governing body other than that of five commissioners; it may provide that any of the elected officials enumerated in Chapter II may be chosen in a different manner.

In the event a law is passed by the Legislature which would establish a charter commission for Palm Beach County, it would set forth the number of members of the charter commission, the procedure for their appointment or election and the length of time they would have in which to produce a charter for the County. Such commission may hold public hearings for discussion of the charter provisions at which residents of the county may express their views. After the charter provisions are in final form, the charter would be submitted to the voters of Palm Beach County for approval or rejection.

Directory of Palm Beach County Offices

COUNTY COURT HOUSE 350 N. DIXIE HIGHWAY

TELEPHONE

832-1671

SOUTH COUNTY RESIDENTS MAY TELEPHONE TOLL FREE USING NUMBER

278-2818

ACCOUNTING
CIRCUIT COURT
CRIMINAL COURT OF RECORD
JUDGE, COUNTY
LICENSES - MARRIAGE
LAW LIBRARY
OCCUPATIONAL LICENSES

PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT
SHERIFF, CIVIL DEPARTMENT
SMALL CLAIMS - MAGISTRATES COURT
SOLICITOR, COUNTY
STATE ATTORNEY
TAX ASSESSOR
TAX COLLECTOR

COUNTY OFFICE BUILDINGS 301 NORTH OLIVE

832-1671

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

COMPTROLLER
COMMUNITY AID COORDINATOR

COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING 810 DATURA STREET

832-1671

AUTO LICENSE BUREAU
AREA PLANNING BOARD
BUILDING PERMITS
DRIVERS LICENSE
FISHING, HUNTING LICENSES

JUVENILE AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS COURT
PLANNING, ZONING AND BUILDING DEPARTMENT
SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS -
VOTER REGISTRATION
VETERANS SERVICE

CONGRESS AVENUE OFFICE BUILDING 2030 SOUTH CONGRESS AVE.

965-5022

MOSQUITO CONTROL DEPARTMENT
PARKS DEPARTMENT
ROADS and BRIDGES

PALM BEACH INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Entrance off Belvedere near Congress Ave.

AIRPORTS, DEPT. OF
CIVIL DEFENSE
PURCHASING

BUILDING S 1362, PBIA
3723 BELVEDERE ROAD
BUILDING S 1505, PBIA

683-5722
683-0880
683-1336

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

826 EVERNIA STREET

832-2441

BELLE GLADE
DELRAY BEACH
HILLVILLE
WEST PALM BEACH
PAHOKEE
RIVIERA BEACH

1024 N. W. AVE "D"
143 S. E. FIRST STREET
W. BOYNTON ROAD
MONTEREY HOTEL
1759 E. MAIN STREET
1541 W. BLUE HERON BLVD.

996-5219
278-3213
732-5545
832-5661
924-7151
848-3438

WELFARE DEPARTMENT

826 EVERNIA STREET

832-2453

GLADES AREA
NORTH COUNTY OFFICE
SOUTH COUNTY OFFICE
WELFARE PHARMACY
FOOD DISTRIBUTION CENTERS

2976 S. R. 15, BELLE GLADE
1340 W. EIGHTH ST. RIVIERA BEACH
105 N. W. SECOND AVE. DELRAY BEACH
1300 - 45th STREET, WEST PALM BEACH
BUILDING S-531, ARMORY
BELLE GLADE ARMORY
175 S. W. 20 AVENUE, DELRAY BEACH

996-5511
848-0601
276-9888
842-4229
683-8144

AND

AGRICULTURE EXTENSION SERVICE
COUNTY HOME
DEVELOPMENT BOARD
ENGINEERING
SCHOOL BOARD
WORKMENS COMPENSATION

531 N. MILITARY TRAIL
GLADES OFFICE BUILDING
1200 - 45th STREET, WEST PALM BEACH
2005 OKEECHOBEE BLVD.
BUILDING S-1132, PBIA
3323 BELVEDERE ROAD
3446 FOREST HILL BLVD.

683-1777
996-5511
844-1321
683-9450
832-1671
683-0050
965-6709

GLADES OFFICE BUILDING 3976 State Road 15, Belle Glade

996-5511

AGRICULTURE AGENT
AUTO LICENSE TAG BUREAU
CLERK OF CRIMINAL COURT
COUNTY JUDGE'S OFFICE - Driver's Licenses
Fishing License, Marriage License, Hunting License
JUVENILE COURT
MAGISTRATE COURT

ROAD AND BRIDGE
SHERIFF SUB - STATION NO. 1
SOLICITOR
SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS
TAX COLLECTOR
WELFARE

996-3110
996-2074

This Is The League of Women Voters



Fifty Years of a Great Idea



This publication commemorates the 50th Anniversary of the League of Women Voters of the United States and the 30th Anniversary of the League of Women Voters of Florida.

The League of Women Voters came into being in 1920, the year woman suffrage was written into the Constitution. As its first task the League took on teaching the 20 million recently enfranchised women how to carry out their new responsibilities. League emphasis then, as now, focused on the importance of individuals working together to achieve good government responsive to the needs of all citizens.

Today 150,000 women in more than 1,250 local Leagues in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico are an effective non-partisan force working for improved local, state, and national government. The League of Women Voters has become an organization nationally recognized for reliable research and information. Their books and pamphlets serve the dual purpose of educating both members and the public.

Through its Voters Service activities, the League has reached millions of citizens with information on candidates and issues, and has provided a non-partisan platform from which all political contenders may be seen and heard.

In addition to its Voters Service work, governmental issues are selected by the members for study, decision and action. Among current program items of national, state and local interest are the Electoral College system, Florida's tax structure and Education. League work is financed entirely on the local level through membership dues and member and non-member contributions. National and state League organizations receive their support from the local Leagues.

All women of voting age are eligible for membership. We invite you to join us ...

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